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20 February 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: OCA/DI

FROM : Chief, Senate Branch

SUBJECT : SSCI Staffer Ann Greene's Request re CBI

Article in Washington Post.

1. Greene has asked for Agency analysts' comments on aspects of two 20 Feb 86 <u>Washington Post</u> articles on the Caribbean Basin Initiative (attached).

- 2. Re the Fred Hiatt article "Caribbean Aid Results Spotty:" it states "In the two years the CBI has been in effect, the value of U.S. imports from CBI countries declined by 23 percent, while imports from the rest of the world increased by 36 percent, according to Commerce Department figures." Greene is checking with Commerce but has had no response as yet. She commented that these are not the figures she has seen in the past and inquires what Agency experts would say about the Hiatt statistics.
- 3. Re the Edward Cody article "Reagan Visit Recalls Invasion:" it states "...increased aid to the region emerged as the chief accomplishment of CBI, notwithstanding administration hopes to the contrary." Greene asks whether Agency analysts share that assessment.
- 4. SSCI Chairman Durenberger, through Greene, also asks "whether the downward economic spiral in the region has been halted?" Further, he asks "Where is US aid to the region going? More specifically, how much of it is used to pay external debts?"
- 5. Greene needs to be able to respond to the SSCI Chairman today and is not able to come to Headquarters. Perhaps a secure line call could be arranged if DI managers would permit it.

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